

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-25 AID-20 DRC-01 /159 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4357

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4678

E.O. 11652 7 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR; NEGOTIATIONS END

REF: SAN SALVADOR 4656

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. DECEMBER 17 PRESS CARRIES TEXT OF BRIEF COMMUNIQUE
RELEASED BY MEXICAN FONOFF AT BEHEST OF HONDURAN AND
SALVADORAN NEGOTIATORS IN MEXICO AT THE CLOSE OF THE
FOURTH STAGE OF THE BI-LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. COMMUNIQUE
STATES THAT DECEMBER 15 MARKED THE END OF THE PERIOD OF
NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MEXICAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY FOR A GENERAL TREATY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS IN
WASHINGTON LAST AUGUST 21. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES, "THE
ATMOSPHERE OF RESPECT, CORDIALITY AND COMPREHENSION THAT
CHARACTERIZED ALL OF THE TALKS OFFERK HOPE THAT IT WILL
BE POSSIBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ARRIVE AT A TOTAL AND
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DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOTH

STATES."

2. APPARENTLY QUOTING AN UNIDENTIFIED SALVADORAN FONOFF SOURCE, THE PRESS INTERPRETED THE SENSE OF THE COMMUNIQUE TO BE THAT THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH ANY "DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS" DURING THE PERIOD SET FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAD THEREFORE "DECLARED THEM IN SUSPENSE LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR NEW NEGOTIATIONS" WITHOUT DETERMINING WHEN OR HOW THEY WOULD BE RESUMED.

3. CHIEF SALVADORAN NEGOTIATOR DR. GALINDO POHL ON HIS RETURN FROM MEXICO TOLD THE LOCAL PRESS THAT "THERE WAS NO PROGRESS" AT THE LAST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND THAT REACHED THROUGH THE THIRD STAGE OF THE TALKS. ASKED IF HE WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE OUTCOME OF THE MEXICO NEGOTIATIONS A FAILURE, GALINDO POHL WARNED AGAINST OVERSIMPLIFICATION AND SPECULATION ABOUT THEM AND CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO DECIDE WHERE THEY SHOULD GO FROM HERE. MEANWHILE, PRESS CARRIES WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM TEGUCIGALPA ALLEGING HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES HAS STATED THAT HONDURAS WOULD NOT TAKE ANY INITIATIVE TO ENTER INTO A NEW PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR. WHILE BATRES REPORTEDLY COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES THAT HONDURAS WOULD AGREE TO A NEW TIME-TABLE, IF REQUESTED BY GOES, HE WAS CATEGORICAL IN REITERATING THAT HONDURAS WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK A SETTLEMENT OF ITS DIFFERENCES WITH EL SALVADOR ANYWHERE AND ANYTIME AS LONG AS THERE WERE CONCRETE PROPOSALS.

4. FOMIN BORGONOVO TOLD ME DECEMBER 16 THAT THE SALVADORAN DELEGATION HAD TRIED TO HAVE INCORPORATED IN THE FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE SOME REFERENCE TO THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE BUT THAT THE HONDURANS REFUSED. NONETHELESS, HE IS SATISFIED THAT THE INNOCUOUS JOINT COMMUNIQUE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS OF SOME SORT. ON DECEMBER 17, BORGONOVO TOLD ME THAT HE WAS SENDING TWO OF HIS NEGOTIATORS, ROBERTO CASTRILLO HIDALGO (FONOFF DIRECTOR OF BOUNDARY MATTERS) AND COL. JOSE N. AGREDA (COMMANDER OF SAVALRY BATTALION) TO WASHINGTON TODAY TO PRESENT TO OAS
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THE OFFICIAL GOES REPORT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS IN MEXICO.
MOSKOWITZ

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